

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-16, 18-19, 30-32, 41, 44-50, 56, 59-76 are now pending in the application. Claims 3, 7, 10, 17, 20-29, 33-40, 42-43, 51, 55, 57, and 58 have been cancelled. Claims 63-76 have been added. Claims 2, 6, 9, 16, and 48 stand objected to, but are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 41, 44-46, and 56 have been allowed. The amendments to the claims contained herein are fully supported by the application as filed and do not present new matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's election with traverse of Group II. Applicant maintains that examination of all the originally filed claims will not place an undue burden on the Examiner. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant now cancels the non-elected claims, which the Examiner withdrew.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 15, 19, 30, 31, 47, 49, 50 and 61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshii et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,147,724). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant amended independent Claim 1 to recite, in part, "said storing portion [122] surrounding said electronic part [115/116]" (Figure 1, for example). Applicant amended independent Claim 15 to recite, in part, "a first holding member [430]" and "a

second holding member [420]" (Figure 9, for example). Applicant amended independent Claim 30 to recite, in part, "disposing a first holding member [120] along said first side of said electro-optical panel substrate [111] so as to at least substantially cover said first side of said electro-optical panel substrate" (Figure 3, for example) and "said storing portion [122] accommodates said electronic part [115/116] and surrounds said electronic part" (Figure 1, for example). Applicant amended independent Claim 47 to recite, in part, "a holding member [120] disposed along said electro-optical panel substrate so as to at least substantially cover said electro-optical panel substrate" and "said recess [122] surrounding said electro-optical panel driving IC [115]" (Figures 1&3, for example).

The Yoshii et al. reference appears to disclose, a driver IC1 on a substrate SUB1 (Figure 4A). The illustration in Figure 4A appears to show the driver partially covered, but not surrounded by, the drain spacer DSPC, which forms a notch NOT over the driver IC1. Further, the drain spacer DSPC does not substantially cover the first substrate SUB1 or the second substrate SUB2. In fact, the spacer DSPC does not cover any portion of the second substrate SUB2 and only covers a very small region of the end portion of the first substrate SUB1.

Unlike amended Claim 1, the Yoshii et al. reference discloses spacer DSPC covering only two sides of the driver IC1. The Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose, or suggest, a holding member 120 having a storing portion 122 surrounding said electronic part, as set forth in amended Claim 1. Because the Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of amended Claim 1, the Yoshii et al. reference fails to anticipate or render obvious amended Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant

respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of Claim 1, and those claims dependent therefrom.

Unlike amended Claim 15, the Yoshii et al. reference only discloses a single spacer DSPC. The Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose, or suggest, both a first holding member 430 and a second holding member 420, as claimed. Because the Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of amended Claim 15, the Yoshii et al. reference fails to anticipate or render obvious amended Claim 15. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of Claim 15, and those claims dependent therefrom.

Unlike amended Claims 30 and 47, the Yoshii et al. reference discloses a spacer DSPC that only borders two sides of the driver IC1, covers only a small portion of the substrate SUB1, and fails to cover any portion of the substrate SUB2. The Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose, or suggest, a holding member 120 that at least substantially covers the substrate and a recess 112 that surrounds the electronic part 115/116. Because the Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of amended Claims 30 and 47, the Yoshii et al. reference fails to anticipate or render obvious amended Claims 30 and 47. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of Claims 30 and 47, and those claims dependent therefrom.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 5, 8, 11-14, 18, 32, 59, 60 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshii et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,147,724). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent Claim 5 recites, in part, “a holding member [120] disposed along said electro-optical panel substrate so as to at least substantially cover said electro-optical panel substrate” (Figure 3, for example). This feature is also included in amended independent Claims 8 and 59. Amended Claims 8 and 59 further recite, in part, “said storing portion [122] surrounding said electronic part [115/116]” (Figures 1 and 3, for example).

In contrast to amended Claims 5, 8, and 59, the Yoshii et al. reference discloses a drain spacer DSPC that only covers a small portion of the substrate SUB1 and none of the substrate SUB2. The Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a holding member 120 that at least substantially covers the electro-optical panel substrate, as set forth in amended Claims 5, 8, and 59. Further, the Yoshii et al. reference discloses a spacer SCPC that only covers a portion of the driver IC1. The Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a storing portion 122 that surrounds an electric portion 115/116, as set forth in amended Claims 8 and 59. Because the Yoshii et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of amended Claims 5, 8, and 59, the Yoshii et al. reference fails to render obvious amended Claims 5, 8, and 59. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the section 103 rejection of Claims 5, 8, and 59, and those claims dependent therefrom.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 41, 44-46 and 56. Applicant notes that these claims are allowable over the prior art for numerous reasons in addition to those set forth by the Office Action.

Claims 2, 6, 9, 16 and 48 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant now adds new Claims 66 – 70, which respectively incorporate the features of Claims 2, 6, 9, 16, and 48, along with their respective base claims. Therefore, Claims 66 – 70 are now in a condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

In addition to new Claims 66 – 70 discussed above, new Claims 64, 65 and 71-76 are also added. Claims 64 and 65 are dependent on amended Claims 1 and 5 respectively. Because, as discussed above, amended Claims 1 and 5 are now in a condition for allowance, Claims 64 and 65 are also in a condition for allowance.

New Claim 71 recites, in part, “a holding member [120] positioned over said first substrate [112] and said second substrate [111] to at least substantially cover both said first substrate and said second substrate” (Figure 3, for example). The art of record fails to disclose, or suggest, this feature. For example, the Yoshii et al. reference appears to only disclose a spacer DSPC covering only a small portion of a first substrate SUB1 and not covering any portion of a second substrate SUB2 (Figure 4A). Therefore, new Claim 71 is in a condition for allowance because it is not anticipated or obvious in light of the art of record.

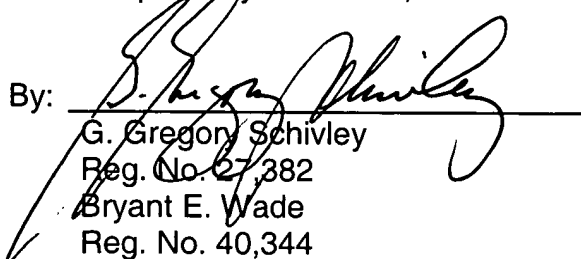
New Claim 75 recites, in part, a holding member having a liquid crystal panel supporting portion [121], an extension portion [122], a recess [121a], the extension portion being thicker than the panel supporting portion (Figure 1, for example). These features are not anticipated or obvious in light of the prior art. For example, the Yoshii et al. reference simply discloses an "L" shaped spacer DSPC without the features of Claim 75. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 75 is in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

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Respectfully submitted,

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